

## Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 00402 01 OF 02 251325Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00  
SAJ-01 ISO-00 MC-02 /075 W  
-----251347Z 036858 /43

R 251230Z JAN 77  
FM USMISSION NATO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1321  
SECDEF WASHDC  
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 6730  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USDEL MBFR VIENNA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USLOSACLANT  
USNMR SHAPE  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 0402

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: NATO CSCE PARM  
SUBJ: POSSIBLE AUSTRIAN CBMS PROPOSALS AT BELGRADE

REF: USNATO 0386 (DTG 241638Z JAN 77)

IN CONNECTION WITH JANUARY 21 POLADS CBMS DISCUS-  
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PAGE 02 NATO 00402 01 OF 02 251325Z

SION (SEPTTEL), FRG DEL HAS CIRCULATED FOLLOWING  
PAPER ON POSSIBLE AUSTRIAN INITIATIVES IN THE CBMS  
FIELD:

BEGIN TEXT:

1. PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF FRONTIER-CROSSING MILITARY MOVEMENTS  
DESIGNED TO INCREASE THE EXISTING MILITARY POTENTIAL.
2. AVOIDING MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN POTENTIAL AREAS OF TENSION

AND DURING PERIODS OF TENSION.

3. DESCRIPTION OF FORCE STRUCTURES - REVIEW OF THEIR DEFENSIVE CHARACTER (FOR THE PURPOSE OF THEIR ORIENTATION TOWARDS DEFENSIVE WEAPONS).

4. PUBLICATION OF OWN FORCE STRENGTHS.

5. INCLUSION OF COMMAND POST AND SIGNALS EXERCISES INTO THE COMMITMENT FOR PRIOR NOTIFICATION.

THE GERMAN COMMENTS ON THESE PROJECTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

RE 1:

AS FAR AS THE AUSTRIAN PROPOSAL IS CONCERNED TO NOTIFY ESPECIALLY FRONTIER-CROSSING TROOP MOVEMENTS DESIGNED TO INCREASE THE EXISTING MILITARY POTENTIAL, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT SUCH A RESTRICTION WOULD HARDLY BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE ALLIANCE. THE FOLLOWING REASONS, AMONG OTHERS, ARGUE AGAINST THIS PROPOSAL:

-FRONTIER-CROSSING MILITARY MOVEMENTS IN EUROPE ONLY TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE TWO MILITARY ALLIANCES. THUS, FOR EXAMPLE, FIVE OF THE SIX NETHERLANDS BRIGADES HAVE TO CROSS THE GERMAN-DUTCH FRONTIER EVERY TIME THEY CARRY OUT A COMBAT EXERCISE. THE SAME APPLIES TO BELGIAN BRIGADES  
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PAGE 03 NATO 00402 01 OF 02 251325Z

AND SOME DANISH UNITS.

-IF FRONTIER-CROSSING MILITARY MOVEMENTS WERE NOTIFIED, NATO WOULD HAVE TO NOTIFY A CONSIDERABLY LARGER NUMBER OF MOVEMENTS THAN THE WP SINCE - WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE ROUTINE ROTATION OF PERSONNEL - SUCH MOVEMENTS FORM THE EXCEPTION WITHIN THE WP AND, AS A RULE, ONLY TAKE PLACE IN CONNECTION WITH MULTINATIONAL MANOEUVRES SUCH AS SHIELD 1976.

-. THE PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF FRONTIER-CROSSING MOVEMENTS WOULD UNDERLINE THE EUROPEAN FRONTIERS AND WOULD THUS SUPPORT THE OLD SOVIET CONCEPT OF FRONTIER ZONES.

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PAGE 01 NATO 00402 02 OF 02 251334Z

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NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 ISO-00 MC-02 /075 W

-----251346Z 036937 /43

R 251230Z JAN 77

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1322  
SECDEF WASHDC  
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 6731  
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AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USDEL MBFR VIENNA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USLOSACLANT  
USNMR SHAPE  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USNATO 0402

RE 2:

THE PROPOSAL FOR A RESTRICTION OF MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN POTENTIAL AREAS OF TENSION AND DURING PERIODS OF TENSION IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO US. IF ADOPTED, IT WOULD CONSIDERABLY REDUCE THE NECESSARY FREEDOM OF ACTION OF THE NATO FORCES, ESPECIALLY ON GERMAN TERRITORY. IN ADDITION, IT WOULD PROVE DIFFICULT TO COME TO AN AGREED DEFINITION OF POTENTIAL AREAS OF TENSION  
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PAGE 02 NATO 00402 02 OF 02 251334Z

AND PERIODS OF TENSION.

RE 3:

WE COULD AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO A DESCRIPTION OF FORCE STRUCTURES. HOWEVER, THE QUESTION SHOULD BE ASKED WITHIN WHICH FRAMEWORK AND IN WHICH WAY THIS DESCRIPTION IS TO BE UNDERTAKEN. WE CANNOT IMAGINE THAT SUCH A PROPOSAL WOULD STAND A CHANCE OF BEING ACCEPTED IN BELGRADE.

RE 4:

THE PROPOSAL TO PUBLISH OWN FORCE STRENGTHS HAD BEEN TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION BY OURSELVES FOR A TIME AS A PRACTICAL AND LESS COMPLICATED CBM STEP COMPARED WITH THE PUBLICATION OF DEFENCE BUDGETS. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN THE MBFR DATA DISCUSSION - AN EXISTING FORCE BALANCE CAN BE MAINTAINED BY MANIPULATED FORCE STATEMENTS - WE DROPPED THIS IDEA AND DO NOT REGARD A PROPOSAL OF THIS KIND AS USEFUL IN THE CSCE CONTEXT. AN ADDITIONAL PROBLEM WHICH WOULD ARISE IS THAT THE NATIONAL CEILINGS WOULD BE EMPHASIZED.

RE 5:

THE INCLUSION OF COMMAND POST AND SIGNALS EXERCISES INTO THE  
THE COMMITMENT FOR PRIOR NOTIFICATION GOES EVEN FURTHER  
THAN THE PROPOSAL - DISCUSSED IN THE ALLIANCE - TO REDUCE  
THE NOTIFICATION THRESHOLD OF MANOEUVRES TO THE LEVEL OF  
10,000 MEN. SINCE, AS FAR AS IS KNOWN, THE WP COUNTRIES  
CARRY OUT VERY MANY MANOEUVRES AS COMMAND POST EXERCISES  
AT THE OPERATIONAL-STRATEGIC (ARMY OR ARMY CORPS) OR TACTICAL  
(DIVISION) LEVEL WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF LARGE NUMBERS  
OF PERSONNEL, SUCH A MEASURE COULD LEAD TO A MORE BALANCED  
NUMBER OF MANOEUVRES NOTIFIED BY THE EAST AND BY THE WEST.  
HOWEVER, SUCH A PROPOSAL WOULD FIRST HAVE TO BE EXAMINED IN  
THE ALLIANCE. END TEXT. STRAUSS-HUPE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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